

Suggested Talking Points
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First Makati Stakeholders' Meeting
Session Hall, 22nd Floor, Makati City Hall
8:30 AM - 12 NN, 17 August 2005

The Honorable Jejomar Binay, Mayor of Makati,
Director Teresita Borra, Department of Energy,
Ms Bang Chingcuanco, U.S. DOE Country
Director,

Members of the Makati City Council and city
government officials,

USAID cooperators, friends and fellow
advocates for clean air.

Good morning!

After working in the Makati area since the
mid-1990's, it has been my impression that the
leadership of Makati is very progressive in

achieving a vision of being the premier financial/commercial center as well as being one of the cleanest cities in the Philippines. In fact, it is well known that Makati is a trailblazer in environmental protection and promotion. Makati is one of the first local governments to draw up measures to reduce air pollution in its area of jurisdiction.

As early as 1993, or six years before Congress passed the Clean Air Act, the Makati City Council had already passed Ordinance No. 93-123 creating the Makati Pollution Control Office. This Office was tasked with apprehending smoke belchers traveling the streets of Makati. Makati's pioneering spirit in environmental protection was once again demonstrated when it recently opted to join

the International Clean Cities Program of the United States Department of Energy, or USDOE.

To implement this program, the USDOE has partnered with the Philippine Department of Energy and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Clean Cities Program, now ongoing in the United States, here in the Philippines.

The Clean Cities Program is anchored on public-private partnerships to build awareness on alternative fuels and to promote the use of cleaner and indigenous fuels for transport to mitigate air pollution. These alternative vehicle fuels include coco methyl ester, compressed natural gas and fuel ethanol.

Another critical objective of the Clean Cities Program is to achieve energy security. Since 99% of transport fuel in the Philippines is imported and fossil fuel based, and the worldwide price of oil is increasing to unprecedented cost of almost \$70 per barrel, there is an urgent need to develop and make use of indigenous and clean sources of fuel for transport.

Furthermore, increased demand for alternative vehicle fuels could spur the country's economic growth by encouraging new investment and increasing job opportunities in the production and distribution of these fuels. This will also promote economic opportunities and peace in conflict affected areas where over four million coconut and sugar farmers

will benefit from new market opportunities created by increased use of CME and ethanol. The supply of coconut comes from a conflict affected area like Mindanao. If we can create a demand for coconut then we can improve the livelihood of the farmers there and spur economic growth.

The success of the Clean Cities Program hinges on partnerships between the public and the private sectors. With government, business and civil society working together, advocacy for cleaner fuels can have a much greater and more effective impact.

The use of cleaner and indigenous alternative vehicle fuels and blends promoted by Philippines DOE will reduce dependence on

imports and improve air quality. Likewise, the promotion of trustworthy emission testing and monitoring procedures and vehicle preventive maintenance will improve compliance with existing laws, which will, in turn, reduce smoke belching and increase energy efficiency of vehicles.

Today, as we launch the Clean Cities Program here in Makati, USAID and USDOE are greatly honoured to be partners of Makati, the DOE and advocates for sustainable energy and environment. We look forward to a successful partnership that will be a "win-win" program that promotes economic growth and reduced air pollution.

- Maraming salamat po!